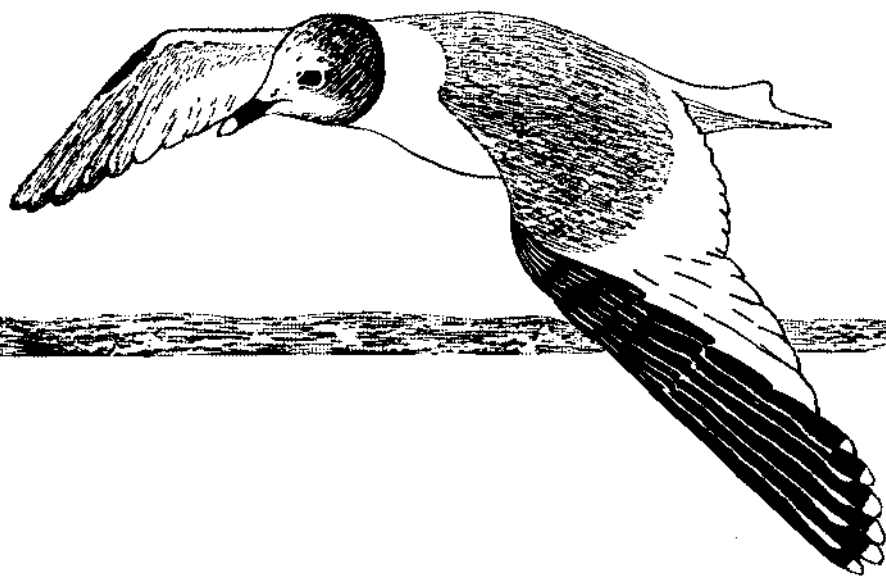


HBWC

HUDDERSFIELD BIRDWATCHERS' CLUB

Birds in Huddersfield 1980



ANNUAL REPORT

BIRDS IN HUDDERSFIELD 1980

Report of the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 1980

During the past year, the Club has progressed steadily. Many new members have been enrolled, and the general level of expertise seems to increase annually. Thanks to our Treasurer, Donald Haigh, to the efforts of individual members, notably Brian Woodcock and Tom Cantwell, and to the success of our annual Film Show, our finances appear in a healthy state, but the increasing costs of visiting speakers, hire of rooms and of printing leave little room for manoeuvre.

Once again our evening meetings have been well attended and received. Our Secretary, Derick Watson, is to be congratulated on providing an interesting and stimulating collection of speakers, amongst whom Ian Wallace on "The Ascent of the British Birdwatcher" provided much food for thought and reflection on one's own position in the birding scene. I should like to thank the staff at Ravensknowle for continuing to provide us with the necessary facilities to hold these meetings.

With one or two exceptions the field meetings have received good support and I should like to thank John Beaumont for taking on the job of Field Meetings Organiser and for fulfilling it so efficiently. In future reports it is intended to give a brief summary of each field trip. Highlights that stand out for me were the Wilson's Phalarope at Teesmouth, Red-breasted Flycatcher at Spurn, a fine male Hen Harrier at Martin Mere (as well as very cold, wet feet and wellies full of sea-water at Southport!). The weather at Filey made that particular trip best forgotten.

Our thanks are due also to the Reserves Management Committee and College Authorities at Bretton Park, and to the Yorkshire Water Authority for allowing our members to have continued access to the grounds of Blackmoorfoot. Unfortunately, disturbance by a certain irresponsible element amongst the public is having a deleterious effect on the latter locality.

I should like to thank all the committee and club members for their support and encouragement during the year, none more so than John Dale, not only for producing this report with his usual thoroughness and efficiency, but also for making the position at the front less isolated during our Secretary's enforced absences.

Finally, a special word of thanks to Peter Bell, who retired from the committee at the beginning of 1981 for business and personal reasons and who gave a tremendous amount of help particularly in the printing department, thereby saving the club considerable expense.

B. ARMITAGE

INTRODUCTION TO THE CLASSIFIED LIST FOR 1980

The area under consideration of Ordinance Survey ten kilometre squares SE 00, 01, 11, 20, 21, along with parts of SE 02 and 12, south of the Rivers Ryburn and Calder.

As in our last four Annual Reports, the status of each species occurring within the area has been indicated by one or more of the following classifications:-

Resident Breeder
Migrant Breeder
Partial Migrant
Winter Visitor
Passage Visitor

For the breeding species, a number appears in brackets following the statement of breeding status which is an estimated level of breeding abundance, based on the table below:-

1	1 - 20	pairs per year
2	21 - 100	pairs per year
3	101 - 500	pairs per year
4	501 - 2500	pairs per year
5	2501 or more	pairs per year

The passage and winter visitors have each been allocated a category stating their degree of frequency of occurrence. This does not, however, include the passage visitors which are also migrant breeders in the area, because of the obvious impossibility of separating the passage birds from local breeders, and numbers cannot be estimated. For passage visitors, the category indicates the number seen during the year, whereas for winter visitors, an estimate has been made of the maximum number present in the area on one day during the year.

Rare	1 or fewer birds
Scarce	2 - 10 birds
Uncommon	11 - 100 birds
Common	101 - 1000 birds
Numerous	1001 or more birds

In attempting to establish breeding numbers and the number of passage and winter visitors, particularly in the case of the more common species, it must be realised that the figures are essentially estimates.

Precise localities for records of Schedule 1 species (Protection of Birds Act 1954-67) have been kept confidential where it is felt that publication may lead to harmful disturbance.

Many of the more common breeding species have been listed without further comment than an indication of their status. For further details of these and their habitat preferences readers should refer to the 1975 Report.

NOTES ON THE CLASSIFIED LIST

Only 162 species were recorded in the area in 1980 and again the variety of wader species and their numbers were low due to the high water levels at the reservoirs.

Three species new to the area occurred during 1980 - these were a Sabine's Gull at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir; a Yellow-browed Warbler at Bretton Park, a species which is very rare inland in Yorkshire; and a Bean Goose, the origin of which cannot be determined with certainty any more than that of the second record of Ruddy Shelduck. Both of these may have been escapes.

Dotterel appeared in greater numbers, and for a longer stay, than in 1979 and also making a long stay for the first time was Smew with two individuals, the second of which remained well into 1981.

For the third successive year the size of the flocks of the resident finch species were rather small. Summer visitors in general arrived rather later than average. Amongst these were an increased number of pairs of Wood Warblers, but on the deficit side, breeding was not proved for Lesser Whitethroat and Yellow Wagtails remain scarce.

Thanks are due to the many observers who submitted records and to the neighbouring Societies whose study areas overlap with our own, and with whom we have been able to exchange information.

Martin Yates kindly gave assistance by summarising the records from the Blackmoorfoot log, and Michael Denton and Donald Sykes assisted by giving advice on a few difficult records.

JOHN E. DALE
Recorder

CLASSIFIED LIST 1980

LITTLE GREBE Tachybaptus ruficollis

Resident breeder (1). Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

This species has made a quick recovery after its decline in the 1978-79 winter. At least 4 pairs bred, and an increase occurred at several non-breeding sites.

Blackmoorfoot Res. An exceptional year of 34 bird days from one on 28 March to 8 on 1 November.

Lockwood Brewery Dam. Singles in January, February, July, November and December.

Elland Gof. 6 on 1st and 9 on 19 January and singles on 2 other dates.

Horbury Junction. One from 1 September to 31 December.

Bretton Park. One on 26 July and one to 3 from 27 September to 29 December.

Boshaw Whams. One pair bred. A new breeding site.

Broadstones Res. One from 28 September to 14 October.

Ingbirchworth Res. Singles on 6 dates before June after which a pair bred and reared 3 young. Up to 3 present from September to the year end.

Scout Dike Res. At least 4 young raised by 2 pairs. Maximum of 10 on 22 September, and last one on 26 December.

Gunthwaite Dam. One to 3 in March, and August to November. Singles on 1 or 2 days at Royd Moor Res., Langsett Res., and at ...

GREAT CRESTED GREBE Podiceps cristatus

Resident breeder (1). Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

A record number of 10 pairs bred rearing at least 23 young.

Scamonden Dam. 3 on 23 February.

Ringstone Edge Res. 2 on 29 May.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 30 bird days between 13 February and 21 October with 6 on 14 July.

Bretton Park. Present from 1 March (5) to 7 December (1). Maximum of 12 during April. Of 3 pairs which attempted to breed, 2 pairs each reared 3 young.

Digley Res. 2 on 27 March.

Royd Moor Res. 4 on 6 July.

Boshaw Whams. One pair reared 1 young. New breeding site.

Ingbirchworth Res. First one on 16 February increasing steadily to 4 pairs by May which bred and reared at least 9 young, many of which remained to mid-October. Last one on 29 November.

An excellent season at this reservoir where the species had been notoriously unsuccessful for thirty years.

Scout Dike Res. One on 1 January, and from 10 February increasing to 7 by 25th. 3 pairs reared at least 7 young, and 1 to 4 additional adults present in July. Last one on 1 November.

CORMORANT Phalacrocorax carbo

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

As in 1979 another poor year for this species.

3 flying west at Scamonden on 29 March. Singles at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 17th and Ingbirchworth Res. on 18 April, and at the Yateholm Valley Reservoirs from 31 August to 17 September.

GREY HERON Ardea cinerea

Uncommon to common passage and winter visitor.

As in 1979 the number of records and maxima showed a reduction on the peak years 1974 to 1976 and 1978.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 20 bird days from 20 July to 31 October.

Bretton Park. 1 to 4 present all the year. A first year bird found dead on 13 April. 7 on 6 April and 5 on 22 April.

Gunthwaite Dam. Singles on 60 days and 2 on 4 days. 20 other localities had 1 to 2 mainly from July onwards also 6 at Elland G.P. on 13 July and 4 over Holmfirth on 27th.

MUTE SWAN Cygnus olor

Resident breeder (1)

Bred at Bretton Park where one of 2 young died during the autumn and at Greenwoods' Dam, Holmfirth, the pair had 3 young during June. Pairs at Cannon Hall, Denby Dale and Birds' Edge and singles at Sparth Res. and Horbury Junction.

BEWICK'S SWAN Cygnus columbianus

Uncommon winter visitor.

Three at Scout Dike Res. on 1 January and 15 at Ingbirchworth Res. on 20th. 18 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 27 November, 1978 addition. 6 at Langsett Res. on 30 December, 1979 addition. 2 at Broadstones Res. on 24 November.

WHOOPEE SWAN Cygnus cygnus

Uncommon winter visitor.

Four flying south over Bretton Park on 15 November, 1978 addition. 5 at Langsett Res. on 25 November.

BEAN GOOSE Anser fabalis

Rare visitor.

One at Bretton Park on 4 April (G.C.). First record.

GREYLAG GOOSE Anser anser

Uncommon passage visitor.

40 flying north over Cowcliffe on 27 December.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE Anser brachyrhynchos

Uncommon to common passage visitor.

One at Bretton Park between 16 April and 17 May.

2 at Langsett on 1 November and 2 flew west over Blackmoorfoot on 21 December. Skeins of 20 south on 29 October and 85 west on 26 December over Lindley Moor, and 45 east over Marsh on 27 December. Heard moving west over Lindley on 16 December.

CANADA GOOSE Branta canadensis

Resident breeder (1). Partial migrant.

Bretton Park. Maxima 189 on 26 January and 187 on 28th December. $\frac{3}{4}$ goslings present by 18 May. Population control being undertaken by arrangement with the Y.N.T. reserve management committee. One hybridised with a Chinese Goose rearing 2 young. Some movement noted. 10 north-west over Whitley Common on 20 April, and 8 south over Ossett Spa S.F. on 7 July. 8 at Horbury Junction from September onwards. 3 north-west over Blackmoorfoot on 11 October. Less than 10 regularly at Cannon Hall.

BARNACLE GOOSE Branta leucopsis

Rare visitor.

16 west-north-west over Blackmoorfoot Res. on 2 April and 1 at Bretton Park on 20th.

RUDDY SHELDUCK Tadorna ferruginea

Rare visitor.

One male at Bretton Park on 9 July (N.P.S.). Second record. Possibly an 'escape'.

SHELDUCK Tadorna tadorna

Uncommon to common passage visitor.

A slight reduction in numbers compared with 1979.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 7 on 8th, 6 on 15th and 1 on 28th February, 2 on 8th and 9th March, 1 on 3 June, 1 on 16 August and 7 on 8 September.

Ringstone Edge Res. 3 on 20 January, 3 on 8 September and 5 on 29 December. Singles at Deer Hill Res., on 5 May, at Langsett Res. on 26 October and at Bretton on 29 December.

1979 addition. 5 at Royd Moor Res. on 28 April.

WIGEON Anas penelope

Common passage and winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 2 on 12 & 20 January; 1 on 18th & 21st, 3 on 25th & 30th and 18 on 27 September; 3 on 13th and 1 on 17th and 31 October; 2 on 1st, 1 on 12th, and 24 on 27 November; 7 on 15th and 9 on 28 December.

Elland G.P. 1 from 1 January to 24 February.

Scammonden Dam. 1 on 20 January.

Ingbirchworth Res. 4 on 15th and 1 on 29 February; 1 on 20 September; 2 on 13 October; 3 on 21 November and 1 on 8 December.

Royd Moor Res. 2 on 13 January; 3 on 4th and 1 on 16 November and 7 on 14 December.

Ringstone Edge Res. 6 on 20th and 21 September.

Covcliffe. 4 flying west on 2 September.

Bretton Park. Singles on 27 September and 1 November.

Gunthwaite Dam. 2 on 3 November.

Langsett Res. 5 on 28 September and 2 on 15th, and 4 on 22 December.

1979 additions. 6 at Castle Dam, Penistone on 18 January and 2 at Broadstones Res. on 16 April.

GADWALL Anas strepera

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

Bretton Park. 1 on 15 March; 4 on 28 September and 2 from 30 September to 11 October.

Broadstones Res. 2 on 20 January.

Ingbirchworth Res. 1 on 13 March.

TEAL Anas crecca

Resident breeder (1). Common passage and winter visitor.

Bred at Black Moss. Up to 7 pairs on Rishworth Moor from April to June. Occurred at 17 waters with *maxima* as follows:-

Ringstone Edge Res. 13 on 23 February and 26 on 20 December.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 30 on 12 September and 10 on 20 November.

Scammonden Dam. 56 on 23 November and 36 on 29th, declining to 21 by 24 December.

10 each at Cupwith Res., on 10 February; Black Moss on 30 March and at Gunthwaite Dam on 25 November.

1979 additions:- 10 at Castle Dam on 13 January and 28 at Royd Moor Res on 7 October.

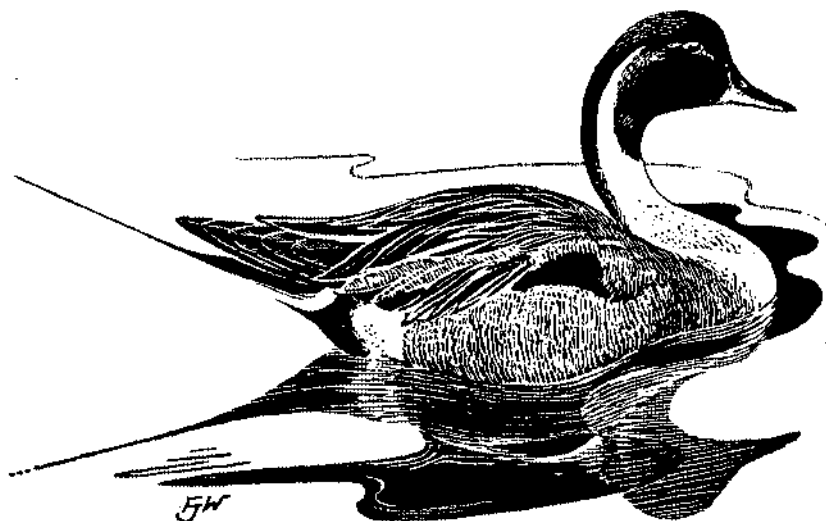
MALLARD Anas platyrhynchos

Resident breeder (2-3). Common winter visitor.

Maximum counts:- Bretton Park 228 on 13 January and 230 on 29 December.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 64 on 11 January and 60 on 5 October; Scammonden Dam 59 on 19 January and 79 on 23 November; Langsett Res. 122 on 28 September; Broadstones Res. 62 on 18 November, and Ingbirchworth Res. 53 on 22 November.

1979 addition - Langsett Res. 142 on 28 October.



PIRTAIL Anas Acuta

Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Bretton Park. Singles on 28 February and 2nd and 15th March.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 42 bird days, the best year on record at the reservoir.

14 flew west on 16 September leaving 1 on the reservoir. 4 on 27th and 29th and 1 on 30 September. Singles on 7 days from 1st to 9th October.

4 on 27th and 3 on 31 October, and 2 on 16 November.

Langsett Res. 2 on 1 November.

Ringstone Edge Res. 1 on 15 November.

1979 addition - Scout Dike Res. 3 on 14 October.

SHOVELER Anas clypeata

Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 2 on 23 March; 2 on 25 April; 1 on 25th and 2' on 30 July;

4 on 2nd and 6 on 25th August and 1 on 1st September.

Dewsbury S.F. 1 on 24 February.

Ingbirchworth Res. 1 on 6th, 12th and 14th April; 2 on 19 May and singles on 27 July and 17 August.

Guthwaite Dam. 9 on 23 July and singles on 4th, 5th, 10th and 11th August.

Ringstone Edge Res. 2 on 26 August.

Bretton Park. 4 on 27 September and 2 on 1 November.

Langsett Res. 9 on 24 October.

1979 addition - Scout Dike Res. 1 on 12 August.

POCHARD Aythya ferina

Common passage and winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res. Present on only 4 days to 27 March (5) and on 16 days from 23 July to 18 December with a maximum of 16 on 26 October.

Elland G.P. Maximum of 12 on 12 January was much lower than in recent years.

Soammonden Dam. 3 from 23 November to early December then 7 to 8 to year end.

Bretton Park. Only on 6 days in the early months with 19 on 17 February and 18 on 9 March. 24 on 27 September then regular to the year end with a maximum of 40 on 16 November, but less than 10 during December.

Scout Dike Res. 18 from 14th to 31st December.

Inghirchworth Res. Less than 10 on 3 days early in the year, but more frequent in the autumn with a maximum of 18 on 22 October.

Singles at Dewsbury S.F. on 21 January and at Gunthwaite Hall pond from 2nd to 6th March. At Gunthwaite Dam 1 to 4 on 8 dates from 29 August to 25 October.

1979 addition - Scout Dike Res. 28 on 30 December.

TUFTED DUCK Aythya fuligula

Resident breeder (1). Common passage and winter visitor.

Single pairs bred at Bretton Park and Gunthwaite Dam (6 young). Two pairs bred at Bilberry Res. (7 young) and at least 2 pairs at Scout Dike Res. (16 young).

A pair present at Swellands Res. during April and May.

Present throughout the year in the area with the following maxima:-

Inghirchworth Res. over 20 from late June to 31 July (35) with 52 on 12 July;

Blackmoorfoot Res. 45 on 26 August and Bretton Park 31 on 1 November.

SCAUP Aythya marila

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

All records were of single birds:- Elland G.P. on 26 January; Inghirchworth Res. from 17th to 27th June; Blackmoorfoot Res. 28th and 29th June and 1st to 6th July; Ringstone Edge Res. on 9 August; Soammonden Dam on 23 November and Norbury Junction from 29 to 31 December.

COMMON SCOTER Melanitta nigra

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor.

One at Yateholm on 13 January and 7 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 15 August.

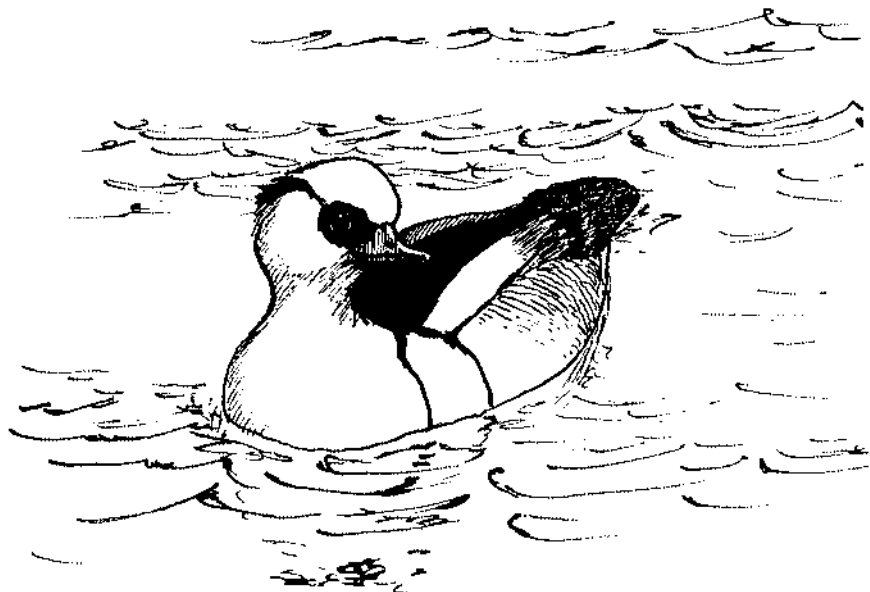
GOLDENEYE Bucephala clangula

Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res. Low maximum of 9 (9 February) during the early months up to the last 2 on 12 April. First of the autumn 2 on 12 October and maxima of only 8 on 27 November and 30 December.

Inghirchworth Res. 1 to 4 up to 13 April with 6 on 11 April, and 1 to 4 from 24 October to 31 December.

3 or less at 12 other waters up to March and from late October. The only higher numbers being 4 at Gunthwaite Dam in late November; 6 at Scout Dike Res. on 26 December, and 4 at Digley Res. on 27th.



SMEEW Mergus albellus

Rare visitor. Eight records between 1959 and 1960.

Ingbirchworth Res. A redhead, believed to be an immature male, first appeared on 4 January (G.M.Y.) and remained until 6 April (J.E.D. et al). An adult male arrived on 14 December (Many Observers) and was still present on 31st. It visited Scout Dike Res. on several days.

These are the first occasions on which birds of this species have remained for more than one day in the area.

RED-BREADED MERGANSER Mergus serrator

Scarce visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 9 February (G.M.Y.) and 3 on 26 October (J.B.)

Ingbirchworth Res. 1 on 8 November (J.M.D.)

GOOSANDER Mergus merganser

Scarce to uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Ingbirchworth Res. 1 on 5th and 2 on 29 January. 1 on 29 February and 2 on 3rd March and 1 on 30 November.

Bretton Park. 2 on 8th and 15th November and 1 on 27th and 28th December.

Digley Res. 2 on 8 November.

Scout Dike Res. 1 from 21st to 26th December.

RUDDY DUCK Oxyura jamaicensis

Rare visitor. Five records from 1977 to 1980.

Ingbirchworth Res. 1 male on 17 October (C. Biltcliffe).

1979 addition - Dewsbury S.F. 1 male on river on 4 February (C. Braham)

HEN HARRIER Circus cyaneus

Rare winter and passage visitor.

Singles near Langsett on 13 January; Shepley on 21 March; Wessenden on 8 April; Dumford Bridge on 28 September and Langsett Moors on 13 December.

GOSHAWK Accipiter gentilis

Scarce visitor.

Four records during the winter months.

SPARROWHAWK Accipiter nisus

Resident breeder (1).

Evidence of breeding in 4 localities, and widely scattered records outside the breeding season.

BUZZARD Buteo buteo

Rare visitor.

Two in the Bank Wood/Emley Woodhouse area on 9 November with one remaining until the 30th (P.S. et al).

1979 additions - Langsett 1 on 5th March, and the Ingbirchworth area 1 from 31 August to 9 September.

KESTREL Falco tinnunculus

Resident breeder (2)

Proof of breeding from 7 localities and seen regularly on at least 7 other sites.

MERLIN Falco columbarius

Resident breeder (1)

A pair occurred at a regular breeding site in April and May, but had left the area by June. For the first time for more than 20 years there was no record of successful breeding in the area. Sightings outside the breeding season numbered over 25 with the majority in the Blackmoorfoot and Ingbirchworth areas.

MARSH HARRIER Circus aeruginosus.

WHITLEY common 2/11 = 1 roosted in reedy area (P.D.B). 3/11 = left roost + flew SW mobbed by C. Crows (JED). 2nd. Record for club area.

RED GROUSE Lagopus lagopus

Resident breeder (3)

No large numbers reported, 20 being the maximum seen in any one locality.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE Alectoris rufa

Resident breeder (1)

Between 11 March and 15 September, 1 to 3 were seen on 19 dates in the Ingbirchworth area particularly off Spicer House Lane, but also near Broadstones Lane and Whitley Common (C.B., F.J.W.).

2 near Gunthwaite Hall on 23 February, 20 April and 16 May, 2 near Midgley on 14 May and at Stirley Hill on 10 August.

1 at Ossett Spa S.F. on 30 September.

1979 addition - Ingbirchworth area - a pair with 3 young in October.

GREY PARTRIDGE Perdix perdix

Resident Breeder (2)

Few records received this year but there is no reason to suppose a decline in numbers. 21 near Gunthwaite on 13 January and 16 near Dewsbury Moor S.F. on 23 February were the largest coveys.

PHEASANT Phasianus colchicus

Resident breeder (3)

Well distributed in the mature woodlands, particularly in the east of the area.

WATER RAIL Rallus aquaticus

Scarce winter visitor.

Elland G.P. had singles on 1st and 12th January. No records at Bretton Park for the first year since 1964.

MOORHEN Gallinula chloropus

Resident breeder (3)

Very well distributed breeding by most small dams and the broader streams as well as the more extensive waters.

COOT Fulica atra

Resident breeder (2)

Bred at Ingbirchworth Res. (2 pairs), Scout Dike Res. (1 pair), Bretton Park and Cannon Hall. Occurred regularly at Horbury S.F., Horbury Junction, Royd Moor Res., Gunthwaite Dam, Gunthwaite Hall pond and Blackmoorfoot Res., with isolated records at Boshaw Whams, Ossett Spa S.F. and Elland G.P. Very low maxima of 32 at Bretton Park on 27 January but there were at least 35 at Cannon Hall on 6 January.

OYSTERCATCHER Haematopus ostralegus

Uncommon passage visitor.

Ingbirchworth Res. 1 on 6 April.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 9th and 3 on 17th May; 3 on 18th, 1 on 19th and 2 on 21st July; 2 on 12th and 18th, 7 on 21st August and 1 on 13th September.

Bretton Park. 1 west on 17 May.

Digley Res. 1 on 25 May.

Langsett Res. 1 on 6 June.

Dewsbury S.E. 1 south-east on 6 August.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER Charadrius dubius

Scarce summer visitor. Occasional breeder.

Singles at Deer Hill Res. on 13 June and at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 13th, 19th and 22 July and 9th August.

RINGED PLOVER Charadrius hiaticula

Uncommon passage visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res. Singles on 10th, 20th and 22nd July and 2 on 31st. During August singles on 1st, 4th, 8th, 9th, 12th, 14th, 17th and 19th (3 or 4 individuals, adult and immature) and 3 on 21st; then 2 immatures from 22nd to 30th, with one adult on 29th and 2 on 30th. In September 2 on 3rd and 10th, 3 on 11th, 4 on 13th, 3 on 14th and from 15th to 21st. Last 2 immatures on 1st October.

DOTTEREL Charadrius marinellus

Rare passage visitor. Records in 1914, 1958, 1959 and 1979 (2)

On the afternoon of 9 May, 7 were found by C. Biltcliffe on coarse grassland and damp meadow at Whitley Common. They remained in varying numbers generally on the same field until 19 May. On two evenings they moved onto an adjacent ploughed field to roost. The numbers recorded were as follows:-
9th and 10th - 7; 11th - 10; 12th and 13th - 9; 14th - 7; 15th and 16th - 6; and 17th to 19th - 4. (Many observers included J.E.D., F.J.W., D.P.) It is probable that more than 10 individuals were involved.

GOLDEN PLOVER Pluvialis apricaria

Migrant breeder (2-3). Common passage and winter visitor.

Flocks during January included 130 at Blackmoorfoot on 19th and 150 at Crosland Hill on 27th and 295 at New Hall on 26th. Fewer were present during February but in March there was an influx of both Northern and Southern races, the principle areas as follows:-

Ringstone Edge - 353 on 9th and 360 on 26th March down to 200 by 7 April.
New Hall - over 200 Northern on 6 April. Whitley Common and Greenlay Carr area - over 100 by 16 March, increasing to 200 by the 31st, and reaching a peak of 572 on 24 April, then down to 385 on 30th. Presumably the remnants of the same flock by Spicer House Lane in early May were down to 150 by the 4th. Many of those were Northern birds last seen on 16th (5). 94 Southern birds were in the same area in late June.

Bred at Rishworth Moor, Slaithwaite Moor, Black Moss, Holme Moss, Deer Hill and other high moorlands.

Autumn maxima:- at New Hall over 500 from 18 October to the year end with over 800 on 1st and 6th November; at Blackmoorfoot 305 on 11 September and at least 150 on 7 December when an additional 200 moved west; at Ringstone Edge 238 on 23 November, and at Grange Moor 90 on 6 December, and the Broadstones area 200 on 14 November and 430 on 7 December.

GREY PLOVER Pluvialis squatarola

Scarce passage visitor.

One at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 13 August.

LAPWING Vanellus vanellus

Resident/migrant breeder (3). Numerous passage and winter visitor.

Largest early flocks were 150 at New Hall on 26 January; 157 at Blackmoorfoot on 16 February and 200 at Royd Moor on 10th, and 300 at Broadstones on 16 February, and in March up to 200 near Ingbirchworth and 120 at Ringstone Edge by which time pairs were in territories throughout the area.

Autumn flocks:- Blackmoorfoot Res. 350 on 13th up to 550 by 21st July with a peak of over 600 on 25 August, and up to 500 in September declining to 300 in October and 160 in December. Grange Moor 250 in November and December; Horbury 400 in December; New Hall 200 in October and 350 by late December; Ingbirchworth area - 300 in late July with up to 1000 at Broadstones on 17 August, and 200 to 300 in November and December. Flocks of 100 to 200 at 6 other localities in the last two months.

SANDERLING Calidris alba

Scarce passage visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 30 May and 3 on 22 July.
1979 addition - 1 at Ingbirchworth Res. on 24 October.

CURLEW SANDPIPER Calidris ferruginea

Rare passage visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 14 September (J.E.D.)
1978 addition - 1 at Ingbirchworth Res. on 3 October.

DUNLIN Calidris alpina

Migrant breeder (2). Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

One found freshly dead at Holme Moss on 15 March had been killed by a raptor, and from its measurements was of the northern race C. a. alpina. 2 or 3 had returned to Swellands Res. by 19 April. No breeding details noted but seen regularly at Deer Hill Res. and Black Moss from May to July. Maxima noted at regular sites were 10 on 11 May and 14 on 17th at Deer Hill Res; 11 at Black Moss on 29 June; 19 at Ringstone Edge Res. on 3 July and at Blackmoorfoot Res. 10 on 16 September, 7 on 1 October and an isolated record of 1 flying west on 22 November. 7 flew west at Langsett on 1 October.

RUFF Philomachus pugnax

Scarce passage visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res. Singles on 4th, 19th and 30th July; 2nd and 30th August and 2 on 17th; singles on 6th, 13th and 14th September and 5 on 15th.

Ringstone Edge Res. 1 on 11th and 2 on 12th August.

Dewsbury S.F. 2 on 9th July; 3 on 14th, 1 on 16th and 5 on 20th August and 1 on 18 September.

1979 addition - 1 at Dewsbury S.F. on 11 September.

JACK SNIBE Lymnocyptes minimus

Scarce passage and winter visitor

Singles at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 9 February and at Elland G.P. on 9 March.

SNIBE Gallinago gallinago

Resident breeder (3). Common passage and winter visitor.

Numbers during the early months at any site were as usual low (less than 10). Breeding evidence from many upland localities particularly the Scammonden, Ingbirchworth and Langsett areas. Autumn maxima were less than usual, probably due to high water levels reducing shorelines at most reservoirs. Blackmoorfoot Res. had 22 on 30 September, 47 on 3 October and 18 on 25 October. 19 at Ringstone Edge Res. on 15 November and 18 in Grimescar fields on 12 November.

1979 addition - 45 at Castle Dam, Penistone on 9 January.

WOODCOCK Scolopax rusticola

Resident breeder (2). Uncommon winter visitor.

7 in plantations near Langsett on 17 February. Singles at Armitage Bridge on 9 February and at Ingbirchworth Res. on 21 September. Roding birds at Bretton Park on four dates up to June and at Gunthwaite Dam during May. These few records certainly will not reflect the true status of the species.

WHIMBREL Numenius phaeopus

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor.

Spicer House Lane, Ingbirchworth. 5 flying east on 4 May.

Blackmoorfoot Res. Singles on 30th and 31st July; 2 on 3rd, 1 on 11th, 2 on 12th and 1 on 14th August, and 1 on 3 September.

Ringstone Edge Res. 5 flying south-west on 12 August.

1979 additions - singles on 28 April at Royd Moor and on 20 June at Langsett.

CURLEW Numenius arquata

Migrant breeder (2). Common passage visitor.

First returned to the area during March with 3 over Blackmoorfoot Res. on 1st and 1 at Ingbirchworth on 3rd. Other singles at these sites and at Digley from 6th to 9th March, then 5 each at Pole Moor on 8th and Scammonden on 9th. 20 at Ingbirchworth on 13th, increased to 30 by 17th and 19 were at Scout Dike Res. on 23 March.

Breeding evidence from many upland and moorland areas, but also as in the last two seasons pairs occurred at Ganthwaite (3) and Bretton (1). 25 were at Whitley Common on 3 July and the last one was at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 4 October.

REDSHANK Tringa Totanus

Migrant breeder (2). Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Up to 5 at Horbury Junction in the early months with a maximum of 9 on 3 January. Small numbers returned to the uplands from 8th to 16th March. Evidence of breeding at Whitley Common and Black Moss (4 pairs). Singles at Horbury S.F. and Otley Spa S.F. in November and December.

GREENSHANK Tringa nebularia

Uncommon passage visitor.

Ossett Spa S.F. 3 on 10th and 1 on 11th March, and 1 on 9 September.

Healey House. 1 by stream on 27 April.

Blackmoorfoot Res. Singles on 2nd, 22nd and 27th July and 3 on 30th; singles on 8th, 23rd and 25th August and 2 on 9th; and in September 1 on 4th, 11th and 17th and 2 on 13th.

Horbury S.F. 1 on 22 August.

Ingbirchworth Res. 1 on 27 August.

Dewsbury S.F. 2 on 28 August; 4 on 18 September and 1 on 18 October.

1979 additions - 1 at Langsett Res. on 13 September and 5 at Ingbirchworth Res. on 4 October.

GREEN SANDPIPER Tringa achropus

Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Gunthwaite area. Singles by Carr Lane on 3 February and at the Dam on 2 March and 6 September.

Ingbirchworth Res. 1 on 31 March.

Ringstone Edge Res. Singles on 30 July and 9 August.

Dewsbury S.F. 1 on 30 July; 2 on 8th and 4 on 21st August.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 9 August.

Ossett Spa S.F. 2 on 15 August and on 15 September with 1 remaining to 26th.

Bretton Park. 1 on 11 October.

1979 additions - Singles at Royd Moor Res. on 5th and at Scout Dike Res. on 18 August, and at Bretton Park on 29 September, and 4 at Dewsbury S.F. on 11 September.

WOOD SANDPIPER Tringa glareola

Rare passage visitor.

Ringstone Edge Res. 1 from 28th to 31st July (J.M.D.) and 1 on 11th and 12th August (N.L.)

Blackmoorfoot Res. 1 on 30 July with a second on 31st, and singles from 1st to 5th and 9th to 14th August (D.By., T.C., M.J.S., M.L.D.)

COMMON SANDPIPER Actitis hypoleucos

Migrant breeder (2). Uncommon passage visitor.

First singles in late April at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 25th, at Digley Res. on 27th and at Horbury on 30th. Bred in moorland localities. Maximum of 17 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 31 July. Last 3 at Ossett Spa S.F. on 26 September.

TURNSTONE Arenaria interpres

Scarce passage visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res. 3 and 1 on 26th July and 5 flying west on 16 August.

LITTLE GULL Larus minutus

Scarce to uncommon passage visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res. Singles on 16 September (M.L.D.) and 30 October (P.D.B.)

SABINE'S GULL Larus sabini

Rare visitor

An adult was at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 29 August from 15.45 hours to 16.15 hours before it departed southwards (P.D.B.) First record for the area.

BLACK-HEADED GULL Larus ridibundus

Resident breeder (3). Numerous passage and winter visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res. Few roost counts made in the early months but out of a peak roost of over 6000 gulls on 22 February it is likely that about 5000 were of this species. Otherwise a maximum of 3000 on 9 February down to 1300 on 30 March. Autumn build up to 1200 in September and later 2800 on 28 November and 3500 on 7 December.

Langsett Res. 1700 on 12 January.

Ringstone Edge Res. Maximum noted 750 on 20 December. Bred here with 2 young present in early June and a further 7 young a month later from later broods.

Black Moss gullery. Less successful than usual. 120 were sitting on eggs on 7 June.

Dewsbury S.F. One pair bred.

COMMON GULL Larus canus

Numerous winter and passage visitor.

Blackmoorfoot Res. Roost counts rather infrequent but nearly 1000 on 9 February, 600 on 22 November and 500 on 7 December.

Ringstone Edge Res. 300 on 20 December.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL Larus fuscus

Numerous passage and winter visitor with non-breeders present in summer.

Blackmoorfoot Res. Single figures only in January and December. Spring maxima low with 65 on 29 March and 47 on 21 April. Peaked at 200 in the autumn on 17 September and 174 on 16 October, down to 22 by 22 November.

HERRING GULL Larus argentatus

Numerous passage and winter visitor

Blackmoorfoot Res. No significant roost counts made in January when this species is usually at its maximum in the area. Over 100 on 3rd and 9th February down to nil by 31 March. 47 on 22 November increasing to 150 by the 29th November and 300 by 7 December.

A dark mantled bird with yellow legs on 5 days between 23rd and 30th July and a similar bird on 16th and 22nd September (M.L.D. et al)

Langsett Res. 1300 on 23 January.

Ringstone Edge Res. 100 on 20 December.

GLAUCOUS GULL Larus hyperboreus

Scarce winter visitor

Blackmoorfoot Res. An adult on 1 February and a 2nd winter bird on 8 February (P.D.B.)

Langsett Res. One 1st winter on 23rd and 30th, and a 2nd winter bird on 30 January.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL Larus marinus

Common winter visitor

Blackmoorfoot Res. 52 on 3 January; 55 on 10 February and 64 on 27 December.

Langsett Res. 450 on 23 January.

Ringstone Edge Res. 45 on 20 December.

KITTIWAKE Rissa tridantyla

Scarce passage visitor

Ringstone Edge Res. 1 adult on 29 December (J.E.D.)

COMMON TERN and ARCTIC TERN Sterna Hirundo and Si paradisaea

Uncommon passage visitors

Blackmoorfoot Res. 3 and 1 on 10 May; 1 on 24 July and 2 on 26th (common);
1 on 9 August, 3 on 12th (Arctic), 2 on 16th, 1 on 28th and 8 on 30th
(common); 1 and 2 (common) on 5 September, 1 on 6th, 6 on 9th (Arctic) and
6 on 11th.

Ingbirchworth Res. 1 on 13 April (Arctic) and 1 on 18th.

Langsett Res. 6 on 13 April (common).

Unless stated, the birds were not specifically identified.

BLACK TERN Chlidonias niger

Scarce passage visitor

Ingbirchworth Res. 1 on 11 May

Blackmoorfoot Res. 4 on 30 July; 3 on 29 August; 2 on 9th, 4 on 20th and 1 on
24 September.

STOCK DOVE Columba oenas

Resident breeder (3). Common winter visitor.

Flocks and roosts included 26 at Ingbirchworth on 13 January and 54 on 29
November; 40 at Winscar on 10 February; 45 near Gunthwaite Hall on 20 January
and 30 at Broadstones Lodge on 13 November. The widely scattered breeding sites
are mainly quarries and old buildings but tree holes in mature woodlands are also
used. Some apparent movement westwards at Blackmoorfoot, 24 being noted between
17th and 23rd April.

WOODPIGEON Columba palumbus

Resident breeder (4). Numerous winter visitor.

As in 1978 and 1979 large flocks were less frequent than in earlier years.
200 near Ingbirchworth on 2 March and at Broad Wood, Gunthwaite on 27 April.
Over 1000 in the Cawthorne area on 20 December and 300 at Bretton Park on
8 November.

COLLARED DOVE Streptopelia decaocto

Resident breeder (3)

The spread of this species which was evident up to 1978 by its appearance in fresh localities seems to have ceased, but it is probably still increasing in the more favourable low lying localities. At Scout Dike, there were 54 on 1 March and at Langsett 40 on 12 October.

TURTLE DOVE Streptopelia turtur

Migrant breeder (1-2)

Fewer records received than usual. 1 at Bretton Park on 27 April and singing males at Bank Wood from 10th to 30th May, and in Deffer Wood on 8th and 15th June.

CUCKOO Cuculus canorus

Migrant breeder (2)

Singles at Gunthwaite and Digley on 27 April and at Shepley on 28th. Reported from 16 localities between mid-May and late June. The last was a juvenile at Castle Dam, Penistone on 13 September.

BARN OWL Tyto alba

Resident breeder (1)

Still present in the Almondbury area where there was formerly a breeding site. Singles seen at Shepley in May and July. 1979 additions - singles seen during October at Scout Dike, Silkstone Common and Cawthorne.

LITTLE OWL Athene noctua

Resident breeder (2)

Breeding proved at Digley, Dunford Bridge and Ingbirchworth. Pairs also in the Lindley Moor, Blackmoorfoot, Whitley Common, Gunthwaite and Cawthorne areas. Singles at 11 other localities.

TAWNY OWL Strix aluco

Resident breeder (2)

Breeding proved at Ossett, Bretton Park and Gunthwaite and prebable at Edgerton, Gledholt, Beaumont Park, Yateholm and Deffer Wood. Also reported from 12 other localities.

LONG-EARED OWL Asio otus

Resident breeder (1)

Single pairs bred at two of the known regular breeding sites.

SHORT-EARED OWL Asio flammeus

Resident/migrant breeder (1). Scarce winter visitor.

The poorest year for at least 20 years for records of this species. Almost certainly did not breed in the area in 1980. Singles (perhaps the same bird) near Cupwith Res. on 11 April and at Sosmonden on 14th.

NIGHTJAR Caprimulgus europaeus

Scarce summer visitor.

Heard singing at one site in July.

SWIFT Apus apus

Migrant breeder (3)

One at Ingbirchworth on 5 May, then 8 at Ossett Spa S.F. on 7th and singles at Waterloo on 8th and Aspley on 9th. Seen at 5 other sites by 13th and generally distributed by 21 May. 220 over Black Moss and 100 over Deer Hill Res. on 13 July and over 160 at Ossett Spa S.F. in July. Late singles at Ossett on 21st and at Blackmoorfoot on 27th September.

KINGFISHER Alcedo atthis

Resident breeder (1)

Sightings in the Colne Valley at Cooper Bridge, King's Mill Lane, Linthwaite and Lee's Mill during January, March, July, September, October and December. In the Calder Valley at Horbury and Elland in September, October and December. At Bretton Park, singles in January and from September to November; at Gunthwaite Dam 3 sightings in September. Singles also at Ingbirchworth Res. (20 September and 2 November), at Scout Dike (10 February and 20 September), at Hagg Wood (21 July), Waterloo (13 October) and Black Brook.

HOOPOE Upupa epops

Rare Visitor. Recent records in 1960 and 1975.

One at Bretton Park on 23 September seen by many individuals whilst it fed along paths around the college (per M. Brook).

GREEN WOODPECKER Picus viridis

Resident breeder (2)

Apart from 2 juveniles seen near Elland G.P. on 6 July, no other evidence of breeding was received. Present throughout the year at Bretton Park, and also occurred at 10 other localities.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKERDendrocopus major

Resident breeder (2)

Regular feeding in gardens has been reported much more frequently particularly at Lumb Lane and Penay Lane in Almondbury and at Edgerton. Bred at Hagg Wood and at Spring Wood (Netherton) and pairs at Deffer Wood (2), near Brookholes (2), and at Bretton Park, all probably bred. Singles at 8 other localities of suitable breeding habitat.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKERDendrocopus minor

Resident breeder (1)

Unlike the two previous years successful breeding was not proved but birds did occur at 5 localities. Singles only at Bretton Park on 9 March, 6 April, 21 May and 23 November, and at Gunthwaite Dam on 7 dates between February and June. At Longley Wood one was drumming on 12 May and 2 were seen chasing on 13th. One in Lindley on 29 January and one near Elland on 24 February.

SKYLARKAleuds arvensis

Resident breeder (4). Partial migrant.

Flocks noted in March included 50 at Digley on 8th, 35 at Slaithwaite Moor on 10th, and 150 at Dunford Bridge on 15th. 37 moved north-east at Ossett Spa S.F. on 15 October and over 30 were at New Hall on 1 November.

SAND MARTINRiparia riparia

Migrant breeder (2). Uncommon passage visitor.

The first arrivals were rather late, starting with 1 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 17 April then 8 at Bretton Park and 5 at Cannon Hall on 19th. Although no proof of breeding was established 5 over Daking Brook, Cawthorne on 4 May and 7 over Bentley Brook on 5th were near suitable habitat. 30 at Ossett Spa S.F. during May. Small numbers at Ingbirchworth, Gunthwaite and Blackmoorfoot Res. (regularly) where the last 2 occurred on 22 September.

SWALLOWHirundo rustica

Migrant breeder (4). Numerous passage visitor.

A few early singles in April after the first 2 at Bretton Park on 4th; then at Clayton West and Cowcliffe on 8th; Holmbridge and Gunthwaite on 11th and Ingbirchworth on 13th. The more general arrival took place between 19th and 21st April. A pair nested at an unusual site in waterworks property at Ingbirchworth rearing 2 broods in an underground culvert. No roost numbers recorded this year. Southerly passage at Blackmoorfoot Res. peaked at over 200 on 25th and 26th August, and on 19th and 21st September. Late records in October of 1 at Blackmoorfoot on 20th; 3 at Ossett on 21st; 1 at West Bretton on 25th; 1 at T.P. Wood on 26th and 1 at Cowcliffe on 27th.

HOUSE MARTIN Delichon urbica

Migrant breeder (3). Common passage visitor.

First one at Kirkburton over Fenay Beck on 8 April, then 2 at Brockholes on 10th, with small numbers at 3 sites on 20th including 6 at Bretton Park. Widespread breeding sites giving an impression of maintenance of the increase noted during the 1970's. An exceptional number estimated at over 300 over Kirkbeaton on 20 September. October records from 10 localities including 14 at Cowcliffe on 18th which all left by midday.

TREE PIPIT Anthus trivialis

Migrant breeder (3)

One at Deffer Wood on 13 April and other singles at Blackmoorfoot and Cuntwaite on 16th before the main arrival from 26th to 30th. Singing males counted in mid-May at Stockmoor Common - 4; Bank Wood - 2; Bretton Park - 3 and Deffer Wood - 10. Last one at Blackmoorfoot on 6 September.

MEADOW PIPIT Anthus pratensis

Resident breeder (4 or 5). Partial migrant.

Pre-breeding season flocks of 150 at Cuntwaite on 29 March and 80 on Rishworth Moor on 17 April. Some southerly passage at Blackmoorfoot Res. from mid to late September with from 8 to 40 a day, and a total of 111 between 3 and 21 October. Up to 150 at Ossett Spa S.F. from November into December.

YELLOW WAGTAIL Motacilla flava

Migrant breeder (1 to 2)

Ossett Spa S.F. had 3 on 15 April and a spring peak later of 15, and singles were at Brockholes S.F. on 21st and Horbury on 30 April. Records from 6 other localities with the only evidence of breeding being 2 juveniles at Ossett Spa S.F. in July where the last in the area were 2 on 6 October. Last at Blackmoorfoot Res. 2 on 7 September and 20 were at Dewsbury S.F. on 8th.

GREY WAGTAIL Motacilla cinerea

Resident breeder (2)

Pairs bred at Hey Green (Marsden), Bretton Park, Hagg Wood, Black Brook and probably near Langsett. 1 to 3 at 18 other localities.

PIED WAGTAIL Motacilla alba

Resident breeder (3 to 4). Partial migrant.

60 roosting at Elland G.F. on 25 March and 40 at Seamonden on 26 August, and a report of a larger roost in the town centre.



WAXWING Bombycilla garrulus

Rare to uncommon winter visitor.

In the Moldgreen area 1 to 2 during January (per A.D.H.)

DIPPER Cinclus cinclus

Resident breeder (2)

Breeding season records from 8 localities including Rishworth Moor, Black Brook, Hey Green, Digley and on the River Holme, and winter records from these and 4 other areas.

WREN Troglodytes troglodytes

Resident breeder (4)

Although an obvious recovery has been made since the decline in 1979, numbers are still well down on 1978 but statistical evidence is lacking. At Ossett Spa S.F. small numbers roosted in air vents round sprinkler filter beds.

DUNCOCK Prunella modularis

Resident breeder (5)

Still widespread with no evidence of status change in recent years.

ROBIN Erithacus rubecula

Resident breeder (5)

Remains abundant and widely distributed in the area away from the higher moorlands.

BLACK REDSTART Phoenicurus ochruros

Scarce passage visitor

Singles at Dewsbury S.F. and Horbury on 8 November (C. Braham et al)

REDSTART Phoenicurus phoenicurus

Migrant breeder (2)

First arrival of a male at Langsett on 17 April then a female at Scamonden on 20th and a male at Digley on 22nd. 2 at Swinden Plantation on 26 April, 1 at Windy Bank Wood on 27th and 1 at Blackmoorfoot on 1 May. Bred at Digley (5 singing males), Deffer Wood, Windy Bank Wood and in the Langsett area. Singing males on one or more dates at Booth Wood, Bretton Park, Gunthwaite area (2), Yateholme, Farnley Lane and Woodsome. Last one at Blackmoorfoot on 7 September.

WHINCHAT Saxicola rubetra

Migrant breeder (2)

Arrivals were rather late after one at Scammonden on 29 April and 2 there on 8 May, then 2 at Digley on 9th becoming more widespread from 13 May. Bred at Rishworth Moor (1 pair), Dewsbury S.F. (1), Scammonden (3), Deer Hill (1), Digley (2+), Whitley Common (1) and Scout Dike (1). Last record of 5 at Whitley Common on 22 September.

WHEATEAR Oenanthe oenanthe

Migrant breeder (2 to 3)

First 1 at Ingbirchworth on 23 March then 1 at Booth Dam quarry on 26th, 2 at Buckstones on 28th, and 2 at Deer Hill and 3 at Whitley Common on 30th. Bred at Rishworth Moor, Moselden, Scammonden, Merrydale, Crosland Hill, Deer Hill, Digley and near Ingbirchworth.

Last 4 at Digley on 28 September.

At Scammonden on 20 April there were 5 showing the characteristics of the Greenland race O.o. leucorhoa and a similar bird was at Ossett Spa S.F. on 11 July.

RING OUZEL Turdus torquatus

Migrant breeder (2)

The earliest arrivals were rather late and as usual appeared at Digley with 1 on 2 April; 2 on 4th; upto 7 by 9th April. 10 were at Digley on 7 May. Bred at Rishworth Moor, March Haigh, Wessenden and Digley and were present in the Scammonden valley. Last one at Digley on 21 September.

BLACKBIRD Turdus merula

Resident breeder (5). Numerous winter visitor.

The roost at Stoneleigh, Edgerton, had no more than 200 from January to March and a similar number on 21 December. Obvious influx in the Ossett area in late October.

FIELDFARE Turdus pilaris

Numerous passage and winter visitor

Moderate numbers in January with over 100 at Royd Moor on 6th and 130 at Broadstones on 27th, and flocks of 30 to 70 at other localities. Few reported in February except for 300 at Rusby Wood on 28th. March saw an increase in numbers with 200-300 regularly in the Ingbirchworth and Cumberworth areas, and 210 on Outlane Moor on 29th, and 100 south over Scammonden on 26th. During April 220 at Gunthwaite on 7th; up to 250 in the Ingbirchworth area on 4 dates from 3rd to 18th; over 200 at Midgley on 27th and a vast flock of 1300 at Cooper Bridge on 11th. At least 26 were by Dearne Dike Lane on 4 May and 2 by Spicer House Lane on 10th, both localities near Ingbirchworth.

/cont.

FIELDFARE cont.

An early record of one at Scammonden on 20 September where there were 2 on 1st and 6 on 2nd October. 40 at Royd Moor on 14 October; 50 at Blackmoorfoot on 18th; 200 near Gunthwaite on 25th; 80 at Ossett on 28th and 50 at Crosland Hill on 31st. In response to requests many reports were received for November and December and it is hoped to publish fuller details in the 1981 report. During November flocks and movements involving 70-200 at New Hall, Gunthwaite, Horbury Junction, Royd Moor, Hepworth, Bretton, Giggstone Edge, Blackmoorfoot, Cupwith, and at Upper Mab Hepshaw 250 on 22nd. During December numbers were less although widespread, the largest flocks being 150 at Broadstones Lodge on 7th; 80 at Cawthorne on 13th and 109 at Carr Lane, Ingbirchworth on 27th.

SONG THRUSH Turdus philomelos

Resident breeder (4)

The usual decrease in numbers noted during the winter months.

REDWING Turdus iliacus

Numerous passage and winter visitor

Quite scarce during January, the largest flock being 47 at Gunthwaite on 26th; and apart from 250 roosting at Edgerton on 16 February and records of small flocks returning through the area between 8th and 16th March, the species was rarely noted. The only April records were singles at Gunthwaite on 13th, and Bretton on 20th. Returned to the Ossett area as early as 1 October, but a little later elsewhere with 30 at Bretton Park on 12th and 6 at Ingbirchworth. 130 flew west over Lindley Moor on 21 October. Flocks of up to 50 both on migration and feeding were at 5 localities during November and December. 154 at Horbury Junction on 14 November and 75 roosted at Edgerton on 21 December. In general the autumn numbers were only moderate.

MISTLE THRUSH Turdus viscivorus

Resident breeder (5)

Family parties in evidence as usual in many localities from July onwards but the largest flock was of only 20 at Blackmoorfoot on 21 October.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER Locustella naevia

Migrant breeder (1)

At Bank Wood near Emley one singing male on 10th, 29th and 30th May and 2 on 1 June (J.B.).

1979 addition - up to 5 males at Elland G.P. during June.

SEDGE WARBLER Acrocephalus schoenobanus

Migrant breeder (1)

First singles at Bank Wood on 10 May and at Elland G.P. on 18th. Near Horbury 3 singing males during June and a pair bred at Healey Mills. 9 caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot Res. between 27 July and 10 August. 1 at Elland G.P. on 19 August.

REED WARBLER Acrocephalus scirpaceus

Rare passage visitor

One at Horbury S.P. on 6 July (J.R.S.)

1979 addition - Scout Dike Res. had singles on 12th, 18th and 25th August and 15th September.

LESSER WHITETHROAT Sylvia curruca

Migrant breeder (1)

Singing males during May at Bretton Park on 4th; at Middlestown and Ingbirchworth on 10th; at Almondbury on 11th and at Stockmoor Common on 14th. No proof of breeding but at least one male was in the Gunthwaite area from 15th to 30th May with a second bird on 19th, and one was present on 27 August. Singles at Bretton Park on 1st and 8th June, and at Scout Dike on 23 July, and at Ingbirchworth on 20 September.

1979 addition - Scout Dike Res. - 1 on 12 May, and 1 to 2 from 26 August to 8 September and 3 on 3 September.

WHITETHROAT Sylvia communis

Migrant breeder (2)

First arrival at Stockmoor Common on 9 May and singles were at Bretton and High Hoyland on 10th. 8 singing males at Bretton Park on 17 May, 4 in Bank Wood on 15th and at least 3 in Deffer Wood on 18th. Not possible to establish whether an increase has been maintained and the population is still well below the pre-1969 level. Last at Gunthwaite Dam on 24 September.

GARDEN WARBLER Sylvia borin

Migrant breeder (2)

First singles at Stockmoor Common and Deffer Wood on 9 May and at Bretton Park on 10th, and at Roncliffe Wood, Cawthorne on 11th. During late May there were 18 singing males in the Coxley/Bretton and Deffer areas. Except for one at Armitage Bridge on 15 May all reported were from the eastern part of the area. None from any site after early July.

BLACKCAP Sylvia atricapilla

Migrant breeder (3). Rare winter visitor.

Two at Bretton Park on 13 April and one at Edgerton on 14th, but not at other sites until 26th to 27th April. Coxley/Bretton and Deffer areas had 30 singing males in late May. A considerable number of late records with singles at Oakes on 26th and Edgerton on 27th. October, and in November a male in Almondsbury on 22nd and 23rd and a female or immature on 28th and 29th; and a similar bird at Thongsbridge on 30 November.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER Phylloscopus inornatus

Rare visitor.

At Bretton Park on 2 November one was seen briefly but well by P. Harrison and D. Proctor. First record for the area.

WOOD WARBLER Phylloscopus sibilatrix

Migrant breeder (1)

For the third successive year the species was more widely recorded with an increased number of breeding pairs. First was a male at Windy Bank Wood on 10 May at which site 2 pairs bred although only one was successful. A pair bred in a coniferous plantation in Deffer Wood, and a pair was present at a traditional site near Denby Dale in May and June, and breeding probably occurred at Parnley Line. Additional singing males were at Booth Wood (4) (where breeding probably occurs annually), Hagg Wood, Butternab Wood, Woodsome golf course and Anchor Wood. A juvenile was caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 31 July.

CHIFFCHAFF Phylloscopus collybita

Migrant breeder (2)

First one at Bretton Park on 29 March then one at Elland G.F. on 4 April. 2 at Bretton Park and singles at Brockholes and Beaumont Park on 6 April with the more general arrival from 12th to 15th. Coxley-Bretton-Deffer areas had 16 singing males in late May. Last one at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 11 October.

WILLOW WARBLER Phylloscopus trochilus

Migrant breeder (4)

No early records but a very marked arrival from 12th to 14th April. On the 12th at Horbury (1), Bretton Park (at least 8), Gunthwaite (1) and the Lockwood area (4). On the 13th at Booth Wood, Sparth Res., Deffer Wood and Windy Bank Wood, and on the 14th as numbers increased additional areas were Brockholes, Digley, Ingbirchworth, Ossett, Blackmoorfoot and Barkisland. Coxley area as usual had good numbers with 41 singing males in May. Last records in September at Oakes and Ossett Spa S.F. on 27th and at Blackmoorfoot on 28th.

GOLDCREST Regulus regulus

Resident breeder (3). Common passage visitor.

Breeding confirmed at Digley, Yateholme, woodlands around Langsett, Deffer Wood and Bretton Park. Flock of 40 at Fullshaw on 31 August and over 20 in Deffer Wood on 5 October. Peak numbers at most localities occurred between late September and early November.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER Muscicapa striata

Migrant breeder (3)

First singles at Ossett Spa S.F. on 9 May and at Windy Bank Wood on 10th. Records indicative of breeding from Blackmoorfoot, Edgerton, Woodsome, Longley, Magdale, Hagg Wood, Digley, Yateholm, Coxley, Gunthwaite and Bretton. Last one at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 26 September.

PIED FLYCATCHER Ficedula hypoleuca

Rare passage visitor. Sporadic breeder.

A pair at Ossett Spa S.F. from 6th to 28th May (J.R.S.), singles at Bretton Park on 11 May (D.P.), Digley on 9 August (N.L.), and Blackmoorfoot Res. on 6 September (M.L.D.).

LONG-TAILED TIT Aegithalos couedatus

Resident breeder (2)

A total of 17 in Bretton Park on 6 January and 15 on 9 February and parties of 6 to 8 at Molicarr Wood, Brockholes and Gunthwaite early in the year. Bred at Bretton Park (1 pair), Bank Wood (1), Clayton West (1), Deffer Wood (2), Gunthwaite (1) and Hagg Wood (1) and doubtless pairs elsewhere not located. 26 at Horbury Bridge on 20 September and parties of 6 to 13 in the last three months at Almondbury, Beaumont Park, Bretton, Cannon Hall, Deffer Wood at Scout Dike.

WILLOW TIT Parus montanus

Resident breeder (2)

Fewer records than usual received. Bred in the Bretton area (4 pairs), at Gunthwaite (1) and near Sparth Res. (1). Other records mostly of singles from Kirkheaton, Ossett Spa, Deffer Wood, Ingbirchworth, Scout Dike and Fullshaw.

COAL TIT Parus ater

Resident breeder (3)

Still widely distributed with the main concentrations in the coniferous plantations. Flocks of over 20 near Langsett on 31 August and in Deffer Wood on 5 October.

BLUE TIT Parus caeruleus

Resident breeder (5)

At Bretton Park over 20 pairs bred in the nest boxes compared with only 9 pairs in 1979.

GREAT TIT Parus major

Resident breeder (4 to 5)

A flock of over 100 with over 30 Blue Tits in Bretton Park on 14 December.

NUTHATCH Sitta europaea

Resident breeder (1)

Present throughout the year at Bretton Park with at least 3 on some dates but no proof of breeding. 2 in Hopton Woods on 4 January and 2 at Woodbottom near Kirkheaton on 10 February.

1979 additions - Hopton Woods, 1 on 13 January and 22 February and Whitley Woods, 1 on 2 December.

TREECREEPER Certhia familiaris

Resident breeder (3)

Reported from four times as many localities as in 1979 indicating a recovery in numbers after the decline due to the severe winter of 1978-79. Evidence of breeding at Armitage Bridge, Windy Bank Wood, Anchor Wood, Netherton, Bretton, Hopton, Liley Woods, Longley Wood, Deffer Wood and Gunthwaite.

JAY Garrulus glandarius

Resident breeder (2 to 3)

Well distributed in the more extensive woodlands. Noted more frequently than usual around Blackmoorfoot Res. with a peak of 7 on 28 November.

MAGPIE Pica pica

Resident breeder (4)

The highest count at the Blackmoorfoot roost was of over 80 on 12 December. At least 55 roosted in T.P. Woods in November and December. Other roosts were not counted.

JACKDAW Corvus monedula

Resident breeder (4)

ROOK Corvus frugilegus

Resident breeder (5)

CARRION CROW Corvus corone

Resident breeder (2)

A flock of 28 at Ronscliffe Wood, Cawthorne on 30 March was the largest reported. Other flocks of 12 to 20 at 4 localities.

STARLING Sturnus vulgaris

Resident breeder (5). Numerous winter visitor.

The largest feeding flock noted was of 3000 on Whitley Common on 30 March. No roosts were counted but the Town Centre still attracted in excess of 10000.

HOUSE SPARROW Passer domesticus

Resident breeder (5)

TREE SPARROW Passer Montanus

Resident breeder (3 or 4)

A flock at Blackmoorfoot Res. peaked at 100 on 9th and 19th August and 25 to 50 remained during September. 40 at Broad Oak, Gunthwaite on 27 September, and over 50 at Bank Wood on 26 December.

CHAFFINCH Fringilla coelebs

Resident breeder (4 to 5). Numerous passage and winter visitor.

At least 125 roosting at Edgerton on 15 February. Largest autumn flocks were 120 at Yateholme on 27 September; up to 100 at Langsett on 1 November and over 200 in Deffer Wood on 7 December.

BRAMBLING Fringilla montifringilla

Uncommon to common winter visitor

Bretton Park had nearly 200 in early January declining to 25 by 20th; none in February and singles only on 30 March. Small numbers at four other localities and the last 7 on Lindley Moor on 5 April. Singles at Blackmoorfoot on 28th September; at Thurstonland on 12th and in Deffer Wood on 18 October. 19 flew south at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 21 October. Small numbers (1 to 10) at 4 localities in November and December, Bretton Park again had a substantial flock after 35 on 8 October, 40 on 2nd and over 50 on 12 November, and during December not less than 50 after the 7th, and over 100 on 28th.

GREENFINCH Carduelis chloris

Resident breeder (4)

Flocks reported were generally small, being of less than 50 birds, but there were 250 at Dewsbury S.F. on 8 September, and over 100 at Storthes Hall on 9 November.

GOLDFINCH Carduelis carduelis

Resident breeder (2 to 3)

Numbers in flocks were for the third successive year less than those of the earlier 1970's. 30 on Whitley Common on 8 April and 40 at Ossett Spa S.F. during August, otherwise flocks were of less than 25 birds. Probably even more widely distributed in the breeding season than the 1975 Report indicated, and are now seen regularly in 'waste' areas near the town centre.

SISKIN Carduelis spinus

Resident breeder (1). Scarce to uncommon winter visitor.

At Bretton Park apart from 25 on 17 February, only single figures up to the last one on 13 April. Gunthwaite area had exceptional numbers with 15 on 13 January, and 20 on 3 February peaking at 75 on 23rd and 24th February, falling to 20 during March except for 40 on 16th. 30 in Deffer Wood on 9 March and at least 2 on 13 April. 7 at Yateholme on 12 April. At least one pair bred in Swinden Plantation. Autumn flocks included over 20 in Deffer Wood on 18 October; about 50 in Bretton Park on 22 November; 68 at Ossett Spa S.F. on 18 December and 20 at Gunthwaite on 27th. Traditionally found feeding on alders in the winter months, the species is now also discovered at this time with increasing frequency on larches.

LINNET Carduelis cannabina

Resident breeder (4). Partial migrant.

Flocks of 50 at Bretton Park on 19 April; 47 at Ossett Spa S.F. on 24 August; 220 at Dewsbury S.F. on 8 September and 100 at Gawthorpe on 10 October.

TWITE Carduelis flavirostris

Resident and partial migrant breeder (3)

First 4 at Whitley Common on 5 March then 22 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 8th; 50 at Rishworth Moor on 26th and 30 at Digley on 29th. Bred in the usual moorland areas. Over 80 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 11 September where some movement was noted with 11 south on 25th September and 13 east on 21 October. Up to 70 at Digley on 1 September and 20 at Ringstone Edge on 2 October. Although classified as a 'resident' there have been no winter records since early 1976.



Frederic J. Warra

REDPOLL Carduelis flammea

Resident breeder (3). Uncommon to common winter visitor.

Early flocks were all of less than 30 apart from 80 at Langsett on 1 March; over 60 in Dean Wood on 13 March and 35 in Honley Wood on 27 April. As indicated in the 1975 report this is a common breeding species of the coniferous and mixed woodlands, but it is probably more widespread now with isolated pairs in young plantations or scattered bushes not necessarily of conifers.

CROSSBILL Loxia curvirostra

Rare to uncommon passage visitor.

16 at Langsett on 13 July (M.B.) and one at Oakes on 15 November (J.M.D.).
1979 addition - 2 at Langsett on 20 October.

BULLFINCH Pyrrhula pyrrhula

Resident breeder (3)

10 together in one ash at Gunthwaite on 13 January is the largest concentration reported. Other parties of from 5 to 9 at 6 localities in the winter months

HAWFINCH Coccothraustes coccothraustes

Rare visitor

At Bretton Park two on 15 November (L-L-E) and one on 30th (M.L.D., G.M.Y.).

SNOW BUNTING Plectrophenax nivalis

Scarce to uncommon winter visitor.

Singles at Snailsden on 2 and 3 November (P.D.B., J.E.D.) and at Cupwith Hill on 29th (J.E.D., S.M.D.).

YELLOWHAMPER Emberiza citrinella

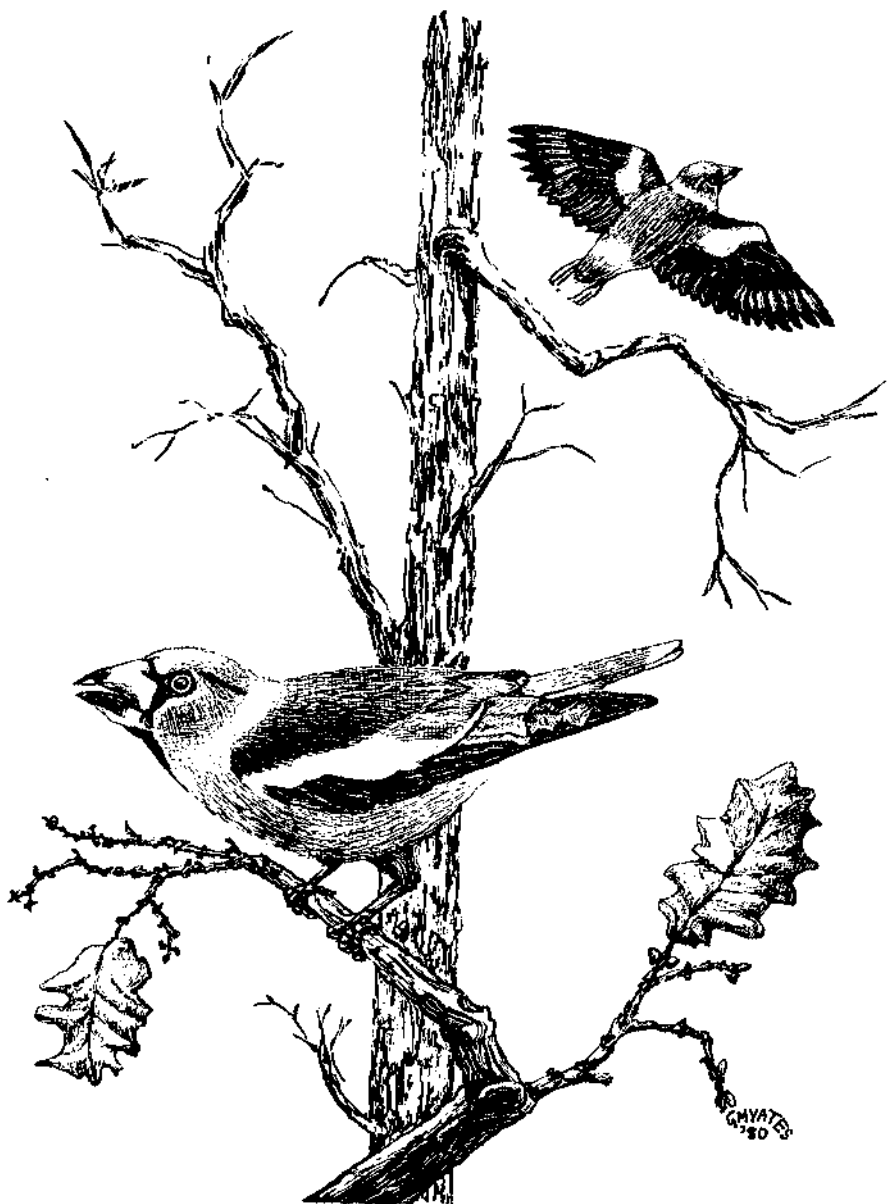
Resident breeder (3)

Flock of 31 at Bretton Park on 30 March. Well distributed and common in open country with hedgerows and bushes up to about 800 feet above sea level.

REED BUNTING Emberiza schoeniclus

Resident breeder (3)

Still widespread in the area, breeding in wetland habitats of all types.
38 near Hey Green on 27 December was an unusually large concentration.



CORN BUNTING

Miliaria calandra

Resident breeder (1)

It now seems quite certain that this species has declined in its long established breeding areas near Outlane and Stainland, at Croalund Moor and in the Ingbirchworth area. The records received were all of singles as follows:-

Liley Hall, Hopton and Cockley Mill, Kirkheaton on 21 April; Emley on 13 May; Ossett Spa S.F. a male on 10 dates in May and other singles regularly, and also in the Kirkheaton area at least one during the summer.

J. E. DALE
Recorder

The following species have all been recorded previously in the area but did not occur in 1980. All are classed as 'Rare visitors' unless otherwise stated.

- Red-throated Diver, Gavia stellata. Eight records from 1959 to 1978.
- Black-throated Diver, Gavia arctica. Six records. Four from 1954 to 1979.
- Great Northern Diver, Gavia immer. Eight records. Six from 1954 to 1979.
- Red-necked Grebe, Podiceps grisegena. Eight records. Six from 1959 to 1979.
- Slavonian Grebe, Podiceps auritus. Four records from 1937 to 1978.
- Black-necked Grebe, Podiceps nigricollis. Ten records from 1945 to 1978.
- Fulmar, Fulmarus glacialis. Four records from 1956 to 1977.
- Manx Shearwater, Puffinus puffinus. Four records from 1869 to 1892.
- Storm Petrel, Hydrobates pelagicus. Records in 1889, 1929, 1977 and 1979.
- Leach's Petrel, Oceanodroma leucorhoa. Records in 1895, 1923, 1952(3) and 1963.
- Gannet, Sula bassana. Five records from 1831 to 1914 and one in 1956.
- Shag, Phalacrocorax aristotelis. Four records from 1969 to 1979.
- Bittern, Botaurus stellaris. Records in 1891 and 1922.
- Black Stork, Ciconia nigra. One record in 1836.
- White Stork, Ciconia ciconia. Records in 1977 and 1978.
- Spoonbill, Platalea leucorodis. Records in 1850 and 1975.
- White-fronted Goose, Anser albifrons. Records in 1957 and 1978.
- Brent Goose, Branta bernicla. Records in 1949 and 1979.
- Wood Duck, Aix sponsa. Free flying birds in the area 1976-1977.
- Mandarin, Aix galericulata. One 1974-75.
- Garganey, Anas querquedula. Six records from 1966 to 1979.

- Red-crested Pochard, Netta rufina. One record in 1976.
- Ferruginous Duck, Aythya nyroca. Five records. Four from 1947 to 1973.
- Long-tailed Duck, Clangula hyemalis. Six records from 1939 to 1971.
- Velvet Scoter, Melanitta fusca. Six records from 1950 to 1979.
- Honey Buzzard, Pernis apivorus. Records in 1859, 1874 and 1979.
- Red Kite, Milvus milvus. Two records in the 1850's.
- Marsh Harrier, Circus aeruginosus. One record in 1977.
- Montagu's Harrier, Circus pygargus. Records in 1882, 1961 and 1977.
- Rough-legged Buzzard, Buteo lagopus. Four records, 3 of which were in 1974.
- Osprey, Pandion haliaectus. Nine records from 1952 to 1979.
- Hobby, Falco subbuteo. Six records. Four from 1954 to 1978.
- Peregrine, Falco peregrinus. Almost annual but some may be "escapes".
- Black Grouse, Tetrao tetrix. One record in 1972.
- Quail, Coturnix coturnix. Five bird days in 1979.
- Spotted Crake, Porzana porzana. One record in 1977.
- Corncrake, Crex crex. Bred up to 1947. Last record in 1965.
- Baillon's Crake, Porzana pusilla. One record in 1874.
- Stone Curlew, Burhinus oedicephalus. Four records upto 1978.
- Knot, Calidris canutus. Scarce passage visitor. The first year without any sightings since 1970. 1979 addition - 1 at Dewsbury S.F. on 25 February.
- Little Stint, Calidris minuta. Scarce passage visitor. Only the fourth year since 1969 that the species has failed to appear.
- Temminck's Stint, Calidris temminckii. Records of 7 and 1 in 1939.
- Purple Sandpiper, Calidris maritima. Four records including 1 each 1976 and 1978.
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Tryngites subruficollis. Records in 1975 (2) and 1977.

- Dowitcher Sp, Limnodromus Sp. One record in 1864.
- Black-tailed Godwit, Limosa limosa. Rare passage visitor. Records in 1940, 1974 to 1976 and 1978.
- Bar-tailed Godwit, Limosa lapponica. Scarce passage visitor. Only the second year since 1968 that this species has failed to appear.
1979 addition - 2 north-west over Scout Dike Res. on 12 August.
- Spotted Redshank, Tringa erythropus. Scarce passage visitor. The first year since 1970 in which the species has not appeared.
- Wilson's Phalarope, Phalaropus tricolor. One record in 1978.
- Grey Phalarope, Phalaropus fulicarius. One record in 1969.
- Arctic Skua, Stercorarius parasiticus. Records in 1969, 1976 (2) and 1978.
- Mediterranean Gull, Larus melanocephalus. Records in 1975, 1976 (2) and 1977.
- Ring-billed Gull, Larus delawarensis. One record in 1979.
- Iceland Gull, Larus glaucoideus. Scarce winter visitor. The first year in which this gull has not been seen at Blackmoorfoot Res. since 1969.
- Sandwich Tern, Sterna sandvicensis. Rare passage visitor. Records in 1957, 1970, 1975 and 1977.
- Little Tern, Sterna albifrons. Scarce passage visitor. Records in 1974, 1976 (3), 1977 and 1979.
- Guillemot, Uria aalge. One record in 1964.
- Razorbill, Alca torda. Records in 1907 and 1911.
- Little Auk, Alle alle. Records in 1935 and 1948.
- Puffin, Fratercula arctica. Records in 1921 and 1958.
- Pallas's Sandgrouse, Syrhaptes paradoxus. A small flock in 1888.
- Eagle Owl, Bubo bubo. One record in 1885.
- Alpine Swift, Apus melba. Three records 1872 to 1892.
- Roller, Coracias garrulus. Records in 1824 and 1968.

- Wryneck, Jynx torquilla. Six records 1847, 1947 and 1975 to 1978.
- Woodlark, Lullula arborea. Last record in 1947.
- Rock Pipit, Anthus spinoletta. Last record in 1978.
- Nightingale, Luscinia megarhynchos. Last record in 1875.
- Stonechat, Saxicola torquata. Uncommon passage and winter visitor. Bred 1972 and 1974-1977. The first year since 1966 that the species has failed to appear. The recent decline in our breeding population may have been accelerated by the severe winter of 1978-79 which has presumably also affected our wintering population.
1979 addition - 1 at Broadstones on 20 October.
- Pallas's Warbler, Phylloscopus proregulus. One record in 1977.
- Firecrest, Regulus ignicapillus. Five records. Four from 1960 to 1977.
- Marsh Tit, Parus palustris. Most recent confirmed record 1977.
- Red-backed Shrike, Lanius collurio. Last record in 1954.
- Great Grey Shrike, Lanius excubitor. Scarce winter visitor. After an absence of more than 100 years there were at least 14 occurrences between 1974 and 1979.
- Woodchat Shrike, Lanius senator. Records in 1850 and 1879.
- Nutcracker, Nucifraga caryocatactes. One record in 1870.
- Rose-coloured Starling, Sturnus roseus. One record in 1859.
- Lapland Bunting, Calcarius lapponicus. Four records from 1968 to 1973.
- Cirl Bunting, Emberiza cirillus. Last bred in 1859.

Contributors to the 1980 report (with apologies for any omissions)

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and other observers who contributed to the Blackmoorfoot Log.

The Wood Warbler, *phylloscopus sibilatrix*, in the Huddersfield area

by D. Manchester

Records available of this delightful little bird date back to 1928 when one was noted at Cannon Hall by the late J.C.S. Ellis. The records from 1928 to 1953 were mostly obtained from John Ellis's notes and the areas he covered included Grimescar, Bretton Park, High Hoyland, Deffer Wood and Denby Dale. During this period most observations were of single birds, exceptions being as follows: in 1931 two in Grimescar Woods; in 1938 two males near Bretton Bar; in 1945 more than one in Hoyland Bank Wood; in 1951 at least two at Bretton Park, and in 1953 two males singing also in Bretton Park.

The first breeding record came in 1952 when a pair reared young in Grimescar Wood. Breeding probably took place in the Rockwood area of Denby Dale in the years 1955 to 1958. From 1956 to 1963 most records were of single birds. The majority of these being noted by the late E.C.J. Swabey and by C. Disbrey and J.E. Dals.

In 1964 on the 10th May a male was seen in Dean Wood, and a pair was located there on the 31st. By accident a nest was discovered on 3rd June containing seven eggs and young were in the nest on 14th June (L. Taylor, O. White, D. Mallinson, C. Disbrey).

From 1966 onwards after the formation of the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club, reports came in from many more areas including Kirkburton, Thunderbridge, Gregory Spring Wood, Beaumont Park, Digley, Stones Wood, Shelley Wood, Booth Wood and others. As the membership grew more birds were seen or heard in the woods around Huddersfield.

In 1967 birds were present in at least five areas and in 1969 four areas (two new ones). Even though more birds were reported, and more of our woods held birds, there were no reports of the species in 1971. It is hard to believe that we had a summer without Wood Warblers in the area.

In the following year 1972 even though reports were few, a pair of birds at Denby Dale were carrying food to a site on the ground in June, so it is reasonable to assume they were nesting. From 1975 onwards, reports sent in have been very encouraging in both numbers of birds and new localities. In 1978 I found my first Wood Warbler's nest in a wood near Meltham. This was during the middle of June and the nest contained young. The site was in a hanging wood (on sloping ground) with grasses, bluebells and ferns as the main undergrowth.

The following year 1979 a nest I found in Dean Wood was again on sloping ground with similar undergrowth and in 1980 two nests were found in the wood near Meltham in similar sites. In other woods where I have seen Wood Warblers singing, the trees have been mainly deciduous particularly oak, sycamore and birch with the same type of undergrowth, and in most cases with sloping banks. Therefore from my own sightings this is the type of habitat preferred by the Wood Warbler in our area although there may be exceptions.

What of the bird itself? As we all know it is a summer migrant arriving in our area about the first week in May (earliest date 28 April) having spent the winter in tropical Africa as far south as the equator, and it breeds throughout England (except some of the eastern counties), Wales and Scotland (very rarely in Ireland). In size slightly larger

than Willow Warbler and Chiffchaff, coloured yellowish-green above with a yellower throat and breast, and pure white underparts. It has two quite distinctive songs one consisting of a shivering trill, and the other of a clear plaintive note repeated up to a dozen times, and occasionally the two songs are delivered alternately. It flits about in the leaf canopy searching for insects then suddenly bursts into song sometimes descending to the ground rather like a Tree Pipit. It nests on the ground usually in hanging woods of deciduous trees, and lays 5 to 7 eggs which it incubates for about 13 days and the young leave the nest after about 11 days. A distraction display is sometimes seen near the nest. Only one brood as a rule. Families roan the woods until early August when they migrate. Our latest date is 27th August.

Let us hope that this delightful bird will continue to frequent our woodlands and that more pairs will nest. At least we have many areas of suitable habitat.

Data obtained from the records of the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club compiled since 1966; the records from the diaries of J.C.S. Ellis who was formerly the B.T.O. Representative for West Yorkshire and the records compiled for the Huddersfield Naturalists, Antiquarian and Photographic Society by E.C.J. Swabey and C. Disbrey.

RINGING REPORT

One of the governing factors concerning the catching of birds for ringing is the weather conditions prevailing at the time. As 1980 was a very wet, very windy year the ringing total of 1629 is not unexpected. The drop in numbers ringed over the last two years is reflected in the number of publishable recoveries. The total of recoveries for 1980 being 14, this is in marked contrast to the average of 24 for the previous five years (when larger numbers were ringed).

For the second consecutive year no new ringing species were handled, although the Pied Flycatcher caught at Blackmoorfoot constitutes only the second ringing record for the area.

During the year 162 pulli were ringed, these included:- Kestrel (3 Wessenden), Black-headed Gull (69 Black Moss), Collared Dove (2 Blackmoorfoot), Duncock (4 Blackmoorfoot), Blackbird (4 Blackmoorfoot, 8 Edgerton, 8 Elland G.P., 4 Toothill), Song Thrush (4 Blackmoorfoot, 4 Elland G.P.), Wood Warbler (3 Windy Bank Wood), Coal Tit (5 T.P. Wood), Great Tit (6 T.P. Wood), Greenfinch (8 Blackmoorfoot), Linnet (4 Deer Hill, 4 Toothill), and Redpoll (4 Blackmoorfoot).

RINGING RECOVERIES

Key to symbols and terms used:-

- Age: 1. Pulli (nestling or chick)
2. Full grown, year of hatching quite unknown
3. Hatched during calendar year of ringing
- 3J. as 3 but still with juvenile plumage
4. Hatched before calendar year of ringing but exact year unknown

5. Hatched during previous calendar year
6. Hatched before previous calendar year but exact year unknown

Sex: M: Male
F: Female

Manner of Recovery:

V: Caught or trapped and released with ring
VV: Ring number read in the field, or sight record of identifiable colour marks
X: Found dead or dying
+ : Shot or killed by man

Date of Recovery:

Where this is unknown the date of the reporting letter is given in brackets. All recoveries of 5 Kms. or more are published.

The recovery of the wing tagged Herring Gull was received too late for inclusion in both the 1978 and 1979 reports, and the Tawny Owl recovery was also received too late for inclusion in the 1979 report.

RECOVERIES OF HUDDERSFIELD RINGED BIRDSBlack-headed Gull

ED59087	1	8. 6.76	Black Moss, Marsden 53° 34'N 1° 56'W
	X	21.12.80	Shaw, Oldham (Greater Manchester) 53° 35'N 2° 06'W 11 Kms. W.
EH41035	1	13. 6.78	Black Moss
	X	28. 5.80	Lynn S.F. (Cheshire) 53° 23'N 2° 28'W 41 Kms. W.S.W.

Blackbird

CH39361	4M	28.10.73	Edgerton, Huddersfield 53° 40'N 1° 48'W
	X	5. 3.80	Hovborg Plantage, Jylland, (<u>Denmark</u>) 55° 36'N 8° 59'E 726 Kms. E.N.E.
CH94386	4F	25.10.75	Edgerton
	X	20. 2.80	Tilney All Saints, King's Lynn, (Norfolk) 52° 42'N, 0° 19'E 177 Kms. S.E.
XC00295	5F	11. 4.78	Blackmoorfoot, Nr Huddersfield 53° 37'N 1° 52'W
	X	(5. 4.80)	Oytrup, Jylland, (<u>Denmark</u>) 55° 43'N 8° 21'E 697 Kms. E.N.E.
XC91299	5M	14. 2.80	Blackmoorfoot
	X	(20. 6.80)	Edgerton 6 Kms. N.N.E.

Greenfinch

BP73587	5M	13. 1.73	Blackmoorfoot
	X	27. 6.80	Salendine Nook, Huddersfield. 53° 39'N 1° 50'W 5 Kms. N.
NC18912	6F	12. 3.77	Blackmoorfoot
	V	13. 11.77	Blackmoorfoot
	V	12. 4.80	Babworth Hall, Retford (Notts.) 53° 19'N 0° 57'W 69 Kms. S.S.W.
NB00555	5M	10. 3.78	Blackmoorfoot
	X	27. 1.80	Whalley (Lancs.) 53° 49'N 2° 24'W 42 Kms. W.N.W.

Twite

KA49335	3	25. 7.76	Blackmoorfoot
	VM	4. 2.79	Rythe, Colchester, (Essex). 51° 52'N 0° 56'E 265 Kms. S.E.
	VM	1. 1.80	Rythe, Colchester, (Essex). 265 Kms. S.E.

BIRDS RECOVERED IN HUDDERSFIELD

Colour Rings and Wing Tags	7M	0. 6.78	Walney Island, (Lancs) 54° 05'N 30° 15'W
	VV	25. 11.78	Blackmoorfoot 100 Kms. E.S.E.

Tawny Owl

GK51997	1	23. 5.79	Broadbottom, Hyde (Greater Manchester) 53° 26'N 1° 53'W
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X 21.12.79 Slaithwaite, Huddersfield
53° 37'N 1° 53'W
22 Kms. N.N.E.

Chaffinch

S877908 4M 9.10.77 Willenskool, Terschelling,
(Netherlands)
53° 24'N 5° 25'E

V 16. 2.80 Edgerton
477 Kms. W.

Greenfinch

NA71423 4M 5.12.76 Coal Aston, (Derby).
53° 18'N 1° 26'W

V 8. 3.80 Blackmoorfoot
45 Kms. N.W.

M. L. DENTON

BIRDS RINGED IN THE HUDDERSFIELD AREA 1980

Kestrel	3	Sedge Warbler	9
Moorhen	2	Wood Warbler	4
Black-headed Gull	69	Chiffchaff	4
Woodpigeon	1	Willow Warbler	248
Collared Dove	2	Goldcrest	10
Tawny Owl	1	Spotted Flycatcher	1
Swallow	29	Pied Flycatcher	1
House Martin	40	Coal Tit	10
Tree Pipit	4	Blue Tit	187
Meadow Pipit	30	Great Tit	33
Pied Wagtail	37	Treecreeper	1
Wren	5	Magpie	5
Dunnock	58	Tree Sparrow	120
Robin	83	Chaffinch	43
Redstart	2	Brambling	1
Whinchat	3	Greenfinch	229
Blackbird	276	Linnet	17
Song Thrush	9	Redpoll	13
Redwing	16	Bullfinch	21
Mistle Thrush	1	Reed Bunting	1
		<u>TOTAL:</u>	<u>1629</u>

Totals for individual areas include 1039 at Blackmoorfoot and 391 at Edgerton

LOCAL RETRAPS AND RECOVERIES

In Huddersfield the majority of birds are ringed in areas that are accessible to the public, so it is not surprising that a large number of "local" birds are found by such people. eg - dead on road, killed by cat etc.

Large numbers of retraps are also handled, some many years after ringing, these being tabulated below.

The top lines show the approximate period which had elapsed between ringing and either retrap (Table 1) or death (Table 2). The figures show the number of individuals either retrapped or found dead at their place of ringing.

TABLE 1 - RETRAPS

	1yr	2yrs	3yrs	4yrs	5yrs	6yrs	7yrs	8yrs	Total
Dunnock	2	1	1	1					5
Robin	2	2							4
Blackbird	3	5	3	3		1		1	16
Mistle Thrush		1							1
Willow Warbler	2								2
Blue Tit	2		1	1					4
Great Tit						1			1
House Sparrow					1				1
Tree Sparrow				1					1
Greenfinch	1								1
									36

TABLE 2 - RECOVERIES

	1yr	2yrs	3yrs	4yrs	5yrs	6yrs	7yrs	Total
Pied Wagtail				1				1
Dunnock	1							1
Blackbird			1	1			1	3
Starling			1	1	1			3
House Sparrow						1		1
Bullfinch	1							1
								10

ECTOPARASITES

The 1980 batch of Hippoboscidae sent to Mr H. Beaumont of Rotherham do not call for special mention. As the information gathered from this source is tending to be a duplication of previous years work, it has been decided that the collecting of "flat flies" is no longer necessary. This is therefore the final report on this topic.

M. L. DENTON

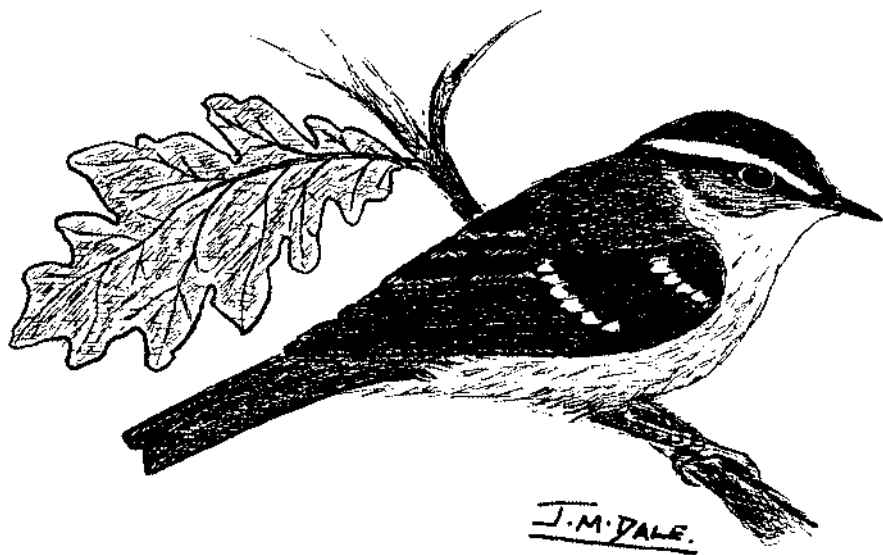
CANADA GEESE at BRETTON PARK

Canada Geese present at Bretton Park in July 1980 that were ringed as goslings elsewhere were as follows:

White Ring LZ	Ripley	ringed	15.	7.75
Green " XP	"	"	6.	7.77
" " FC	Roundhill Res.	"	3.	7.77
White " SM	"	"	1.	7.79
" " H3	Harewood	"	3.	7.79
" " N3	"	"	3.	7.79

Ringling information from A.F.G. Walker of Harrogate.

D. PROCTOR



A Yellow-browed Warbler, *phylloscopus inornatus*, at Bretton Park on
2 November 1980

Philip Harrison and David Proctor were walking west along the north bank of the lower lake at Bretton Park at 11.30 am on 2 November. Their attention was drawn to a mixed party of Bramblings and Chaffinches feeding in the lower branches of a large beech to the left of the path. P.H. observed a small bird moving actively through the top of a low bramble which had become enmeshed with a fallen bough below the beech tree. Expecting the bird to be a Goldcrest P.H. raised his binoculars and quickly obtained a view of two yellowish buff wing bars on an otherwise green wing. He immediately alerted D.P. who confirmed the wing pattern, and noted in particular a prominent creamy white supercilious stripe on

an otherwise unmarked head.

P.H. noted that the bird appeared dumber and slightly longer than a Goldcrest, and that the wing bar on the lesser coverts was shorter than that on the greater coverts.

Both observers agreed that the features could only be those of a Yellow-browed Warbler, a species of which they both had previous experience. They further noted that the upper parts were in general greenish and the underparts whitish.

The bird was seen at a range of about twenty feet for half a minute before being disturbed by two walkers, who almost immediately afterwards flushed at least twelve Bramblings, and in the general confusion of flying birds the warbler was lost and not seen again.

The weather was dry and cold with hazy sunshine and a moderate south-east wind. Easterly winds were known to be blowing over Europe, and an anti-cyclone was centred over Scandinavia.

Extracted from notes submitted by P.H. and D.P.

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John E. Dale

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